

IN THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. The present response supersedes all prior listings and versions of claims in the present application.

1. (Withdrawn) An increase profit calculating apparatus, comprising:

first marketing object screen creating means which creates a first marketing object screen (205) for displaying a first marketing object; and

increase profit screen creating means which is operated in response to a click operation of a specific mark on the first marketing object screen (205) and which creates an increase profit screen (207) for displaying increase profit by employing the first marketing object instead of a second marketing object corresponding to the first marketing object,

the increase profit screen (207) comprising:

question item fields (207a - 207d) which issues a plurality of questions about works relating to the first marketing object and the second marketing object and costs for the works;

a field (207i) which displays a first total cost due to use of the first marketing object within a predetermined period;

a field (207j) which displays a second total cost due to use of the second marketing object within the predetermined period; and

a field (207k) which displays increase profit obtained by employing the first marketing object instead of the second marketing object,

wherein the increase profit calculating apparatus is provided with calculating means which calculates the first and second total costs, and the increase profit according to answers to the questions from an operator.

2. (Withdrawn) An increase profit calculating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the marketing object includes a product such as a die apparatus, a mechanical part, a blade of a machine tool, a machine tool or the like, or service such as maintenance for the product.

3. (Withdrawn) An increase profit calculating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of questions relating to the first marketing object and the second marketing object include a question about the number of works within a predetermined period, and a question about a time required for one time work.

4. (Withdrawn) An increase profit calculating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the marketing object is a die apparatus, and the question item includes one of a question group about the number of die apparatus operations per day, a die apparatus operation time per one time, a labor cost per predetermined time, and working days within a predetermined term;

a question group about personnel or mechanical idling time caused by inferiority machining occurring due to use of a second die, labor cost within a predetermined time, and working days within a predetermined term; and

a question group about total working time within a predetermined term in a case that predetermined machining is performed using the second die, total working time within a predetermined term in a case that the same machining is performed using a first die, labor

cost per predetermined time, and working days within a predetermined term.

5. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus comprises: inferiority phenomena screen creating means which creates an inferiority phenomena screen (209) for displaying a plurality of inferiority phenomena in machining using a marketing object; and

inferiority phenomena cause screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a display portion of one inferiority phenomenon on the inferiority phenomena screen (209) to create an inferiority phenomena cause screen (211) for displaying causes of the one inferiority phenomenon.

6. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the inferiority phenomena cause screen (211) displays a list of the causes.

7. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the marketing object is a punching die, and the causes of inferiority phenomenon are spring fatigue, clearance unsuitableness and the like.

8. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising avoidance information screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a display portion of one cause in a list of the causes to create an avoidance information screen (213) for displaying information for avoiding the cause.

9. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 8, comprising new product screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a predetermined portion of the inferiority phenomena cause screen (211) or the

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avoidance information screen (213) to create a new product screen (217) for displaying a new product for avoiding the inferiority phenomenon.

10. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising reference value screen creating means which is actuated by, when one cause in the inferiority phenomena cause list is offset from a reference value of a predetermined parameter, clicking a display portion of the cause on the inferiority phenomena cause screen (211) to create a reference value screen (219) for displaying the reference value.

11. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a question field about characteristics of material for defining the reference value is provided on the reference value screen (219).

12. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the characteristics of material are material quality and plate thickness of a material.

13. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a question field about the current value of the parameter is provided on the reference value screen (219).

14. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising accompanying disadvantage screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a predetermined portion on the reference value screen (219) to create an accompanying disadvantage display screen (221) for displaying other inferiority phenomena or disadvantages which may occur due to the cause.

15. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus, comprising cause/countermeasure screen creating means which creates a cause/countermeasure screen (223) which displays a cause of an inferiority phenomenon in machining using a marketing object and a plurality of a first kind of countermeasures for avoiding the inferiority phenomenon due to the cause; and

countermeasure explanation screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a display portion of one countermeasure on the cause/countermeasure screen to create a countermeasure explanation screen (225) for explaining specific contents of the countermeasure.

16. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the marketing object is a die for bending.

17. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 15, comprising new product screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a predetermined portion on the cause/countermeasure screen (223) or the countermeasure explanation screen (225) to create a new product screen (227) for displaying a new product for avoiding the inferiority phenomenon due to the cause.

18. (Withdrawn) An inferiority phenomena countermeasure guiding apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising new product detail screen creating means which is actuated by clicking a predetermined portion on the new product screen (227) to create a new product detail screen (229) for displaying detail explanation such as suitable material/suitable apparatus/function or the like of the new product.

19. (Withdrawn) A question-answer accumulating apparatus comprising:

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means which inputs a question about a marketing object;

means which inputs an answer to the question; and

means which stores the question and the answer in a mutually related manner.

20. (Withdrawn) A die retrieval apparatus comprising:

die data input screen creating means which creates die data input screens (231, 233) provided with a plurality of fields in which features of a marketing object are input; and

standard die screen creating means which is actuated by inputting data items into respective fields on the input screens (231, 233) and which, when a marketing object corresponding to the respective data items exists, creates a standard die screen (235) for displaying a price relating to the marketing object and, when no marketing object corresponding to the respective data items exists, creates an error indication.

21. (Withdrawn) A die retrieval apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of fields in which features of a marketing object are input include a field (231a) in which a shape of the marketing object is input, a field (233a) in which the kind of a machine in which the marketing object can be used is input, fields (233c, 233e) in which the structure of the marketing object is input, and fields (233d, 233f) in which the material quality of the marketing object is input.

22. (Withdrawn) A die retrieval apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a part list name of the marketing object and a price of each part are displayed on the standard die screen (235).

23. (Withdrawn) A product parameter setting apparatus comprising:

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marketing object shape selection screen creating means which creates shape pattern selection screens (237, 239) for selecting a shape relating to a marketing object to be set with parameters; and

marketing object size parameter input screen creating means which is actuated according to selection and input of a specific shape pattern on the marketing object shape selection screens to create a marketing object size parameter input screen (241) in which size parameters of predetermined portions about the selected marketing object shape.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the shape parameter selection screens (237, 239) includes a field (237a) for selecting the kind of the marketing object to be set with parameters and a field (237c) for allowing a shape pattern relating to the marketing object to be set with parameters.

25. (Withdrawn) A product parameter setting apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the marketing object size parameter input screen (241) comprises

a shape pattern display field (241b) which displays the selected marketing object shape pattern and a size parameter input portion necessary for specifying the shape of the marketing object to be set with parameters, and

a size parameter input field (241c) which allows input of size parameters of the input portion.

26. (Withdrawn) A product parameter setting apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising parameter setting means which performs parameter setting on marketing object products which are classified on the basis of shape patterns of marketing objects, the parameter setting being performed according to correspondence

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relationship between the shapes of the marketing objects which have been stored in advance and size parameter groups necessary for specifying the shapes of the marketing objects.

27. (Withdrawn) A product parameter setting apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the shape pattern is stored so as to correspond to a plurality of size parameter groups necessary for specifying the shape of the marketing object which belongs to the shape pattern, and

the marketing object size parameter input screen (241) includes a size input pattern selection field which allows selection of one size parameter from the plurality of size parameter groups.

28. (Withdrawn) A product parameter setting apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the shape pattern selection screens (237, 239) further comprises an application shape display field (239c) which displays one or plural shape sub-patterns included in shape variations of the selected shape pattern.

29. (Withdrawn) A product automatic designing apparatus (product parameter setting apparatus), comprising:

marketing object shape pattern selection screen creating means which creates a shape pattern selection screen (237) which allows selection of a trimming hole shape of a marketing object apparatus used for machining of a predetermined kind, such as a punching or the like; and

marketing object size parameter input screen creating means which is actuated according to the selection and input of a specific trimming hole shape pattern on the

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marketing object shape selection screen to create a marketing object size parameter input screen (241) which allows input of size parameters about the trimming hole shape pattern of the selected marketing object, wherein

the shape pattern selection screen (237) includes at least a field which allows selection of the kind of a marketing object to be designed (to be set with parameters), and

a field which allows selection of the trimming hole shape pattern of the marketing object to be designed (to be set with parameters); and

the marketing object size parameter input screen (241) includes at least a shape pattern display field (241b) which display the trimming shape pattern of the selected marketing object and an input portion of size parameters necessary for specifying the trimming hole shape of the marketing object to be designed (to be set with parameters), and

a size parameter input field (241c) which allows input of size parameters of the input field.

30. (Withdrawn) A product automatic designing apparatus (product parameter setting apparatus), comprising:

marketing object shape pattern selection screen creating means which creates a shape pattern selection screen (249) which allows selection of a shape of a marketing object used for machining of a predetermined kind, such as a bending or the like; and

marketing object size parameter input screen creating means which is actuated according to the selection and input of a specific shape pattern on the marketing object

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shape selection screen to create a marketing object size parameter input screens (251, 253) which allow input of size parameters about the shape pattern of the selected marketing object, wherein

the shape pattern selection screen (249) includes at least a field (249a) which allows selection of the kind of the marketing object to be designed (to be set with parameters), and

a field which allows selection of the shape pattern relating to the marketing object to be designed (to be set with parameters); and

the marketing object size parameter input screens (251, 253) include at least a shape pattern display field (251a) which displays the selected marketing object shape pattern and main size data of the marketing object shape pattern, and

a size parameter input field which allows shift of the selected shape pattern and input of size parameters for specifying a desired shape.

Claims 31-36 (Cancelled)

Claims 37-42 (Withdrawn)

37. (Withdrawn) An automatic estimate creating apparatus comprising:

input means which inputs product data to be estimated, the number of the products and customer data;

estimate data storage means which stores delivery time data corresponding to the product and discount rate data of the product to its price; and

detail estimate information creating means which outputs detail estimate information on the basis of the input data, wherein

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the detail estimate information to be output includes a deliverable day according to the delivery time data and discount amount according to the discount rate data.

38. (Withdrawn) An automatic estimate creating apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the product data to be estimated is input by specifying the shape of the product and/or the material quality thereof.

39. (Withdrawn) An automatic estimate creating apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the input means further inputs special mention specification data about the input product, and

when the special mention specification is charged, the detail estimate information creating means further adds a price corresponding to the special mention specification to a marketing price of the product and creates estimate information on the basis of a marketing unit price after added.

40. (Withdrawn) An order reception information creating apparatus comprising:

order reception information screen creating means which displays an order reception information screen of a order-received product at a marketing place; and

order reception information transmitting means which is actuated by clicking a specific mark on the order reception information screen to transmit the order reception to a manufacture end.

41. (Withdrawn) An order reception information creating apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising delivery data update display means which changes a delivery day of a product received in response to the transmission of the order reception according to a manufacture schedule to display the changed delivery day on the order reception

information screen.

42. (Withdrawn) A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer program which allows a computer to function as any one of the apparatuses according to claim 1.

43. (Currently Amended) A machining possibility calculator, comprising:

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a machine data input device that inputs machine data for a die ~~machine element~~ to be designed, the machine data for the die ~~machine element~~ including structure data, material quality data, and shape data specified by a shape pattern selected from a plurality of shape patterns and by a set of size parameters selected from a plurality of sets of size parameters corresponding to the selected shape pattern;

a material data input apparatus that inputs material feature data including features of a material to be machined by the ~~machine element~~ die; and

a machining verifier which verifies whether the die ~~machine element~~ to be designed is capable of being machined on the basis of the input machine data and material feature data.

44. (Previously Presented) A machining possibility calculating apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the features of the material to be machined include a plate thickness and the material quality of a plate material.

45. (Currently Amended) A machining possibility calculating apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the machining verifier performs the verification by comparing a resisting pressure of the ~~machine element~~ die, obtained according to a strength calculation using the machine data, to a machining pressure, obtained from the material feature data,

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necessary for machining.

46. (Previously Presented) A machining possibility calculating apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the machining verifier performs the verification by checking consistency between the size parameters.

47. (Currently Amended) A machining possibility calculating apparatus according to claim 43, wherein, when the ~~machine element~~ die to be designed is ~~a die~~ for a predetermined type of machining, the machine data includes structures and material qualities of a punch and the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~die, and a clearance between the punch and the die.

48. (Currently Amended) A machining possibility calculating apparatus according to claim 43, wherein, when the ~~machine element~~ die to be designed is ~~a die apparatus~~ for a predetermined type of machining, the machine data further includes a tip end radius of the ~~die apparatus~~, a tip end angle of the ~~die apparatus~~, and a V width of the ~~die apparatus~~.